

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 36-39 and 82-99 are pending in the application. Claims 1-35 and 40-81 were previously withdrawn. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file future applications directed to claims 1-35 and 40-81 without prejudice.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that dependent claims 82-90 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended independent claims 36, 91 and 96 to include the limitations of allowable claim 82. Claims 83, 85 and 87 have been amended to indicate their dependency on amended, allowable claim 36. Independent claim 100 has been added. Support for new claim 100 can be found, for example, in originally filed claims 36 and 82 and, for example, paragraphs 12, 45, 46, and 50 of the originally filed application.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 36-39, 91 and 96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lashinshi *et al.* (EP 0 796 597 A2). This rejection has been obviated in view of the amendments to independent claims 36, 91 and 96 (and claims dependent thereon) to include the limitations of allowable claim 82. New claim 100 is also patentable over Lashinshi because it includes allowable features of allowable claim 82.

Therefore, Applicants' claims 36-39, 91 and 96 are allowable.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 92-95, 97 and 98 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Lashinshi *et al.* in view of Kleshinski *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,746,765). This rejection is also obviated in view of the amendments to independent claims 91 and 96 (and claims dependent thereon) to include the limitations of allowable claim 82. New claim 100 is also patentable over Kleshinski because it includes allowable features of allowable claim 82.

Therefore, claims 92-95, which are dependent on allowable claim 91, and claims 97 and 98, which are dependent on allowable claim 96, are allowable.

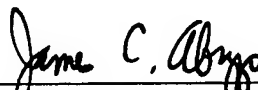
Appln. No.: 10/612,110
Amendment Dated: February 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 1, 2005

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Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants contend that the above-identified application, which includes pending claims 36-39 and 83-100, is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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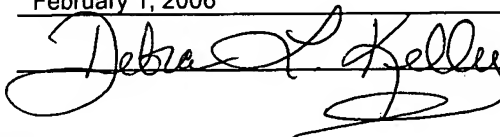
Dated: February 1, 2006

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